Tie up with Saudi Arabia in Oil/Gas Sector

2900. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to tie-up with Saudi Arabia for investment in Indian refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the two Government have agreed to further explore possibilities in the field of gas fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. have initiated discussions with Saudi Aramco for possible Saudi investment in the expansion of HPCL's Vishakhapatnam refinery and IOC's Paradeep refinery. The proposed Saudi investment is associated with possible HPCL investment in Yanbu refinery in the Red Sea. It is hoped that the two refineries between them will be able to cater to markets both in the West and the East. The two Governments have blessed these mutual investments, but the terms have to be worked out between the commercial entities concerned.

(c) and (d) ONGC/OVL had indicated their interest in participating in the South Ghawar gas development project and other gas blocks besides the entire value chain of Natural Gas. GAIL has also presented its capabilities in involving in domestic gas distribution networks. A Joint Technical Committee will be considering these issues further.

Action against petrol pump owners for adulteration

†2901. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases registered during the last one year in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh involving adulteration of petrol and underweighing;

(b) the action taken against the owners found guitly; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The number of cases of adulteration/ underweighing (short delivery) detected at retail outlets during the last one year in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are as follows:—

State	Adulteration	Short delivery
Bihar	01	06
Uttar Pradesh	19	61
TOTAL:	20	67

In these cases, action has been taken by Oil Marketing Companies in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or dealership agreement.

Supply of Euro-III grade petrol/diesel

2902. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in Which Ultra-low sulphur diesel is supplied at present;

(b) the details of cities in which Euro-III grade petrol is supplied at present;

(c) the details of cities in which Euro-III grade diesel is supplied at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to postpone the supply of Euro-II diesel in 7 States till next year; and

(e) if so, the reasons behind this postponment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur has been introduced all over India with effect from 1.4.2005 except in 6 States and part of one State namely Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Western part of U.P.